



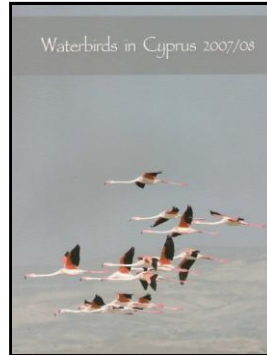
May 4, 2009, No. 93

## Children's Festival Attracts Over 5,000 to Walled City of Famagusta

With support from USAID, the newly created "Famagusta Walled City Destination Development Project Steering Committee" made up of local leaders, residents and business people organized a Children's Festival. Over 5,000 people spent the day touring, shopping and walking in the open air museum that is historic Famagusta. The festival was one of the many activities planned to increase appreciation for the cultural assets of the City and to improve conditions for residents and visitors. Focused on children and the importance of preserving Cyprus' multicultural past and traditions for future generations, the Festival featured folk and other dance shows, musical performances, and other artistic displays. Children enjoyed a variety of activities while vendors sold traditional Cypriot delicacies and organic products. Guided tours—some accompanied by child actors—provided groups with insights into the centuries of history and associated traditions of the City. More information on the Committee and its work can be found at [www.famagustawalledcity.org](http://www.famagustawalledcity.org).



## Landmark **Waterbirds in Cyprus** Volume Published



Ecologically speaking, Cyprus is a series of interconnected systems where environmental issues can only be properly addressed on an island-wide basis. This is especially true in the case of public health hazards such as those posed by air and water pollution and airborne viruses. The avian influenza epidemics of 2006 provided the impetus for cooperation between Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots on the H5N1 virus which was contagious to human beings. Cyprus is located on an important migratory flyway and hosts millions of migrating birds each winter—all of them are potential vectors of disease. To assist Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots in combating the threat then and in better managing shared resources in the future, USAID, through ACT, supported the efforts that resulted in a cooperative island-wide waterbird monitoring program and the first systematic counts of waterbirds on the island. The result is the pioneering publication, **Waterbirds in Cyprus 2007/2008**—both a landmark report on which future studies can build as well as a testament to what can be accomplished when the two sides work together to tackle a common problem.

*The mission of USAID/Cyprus is to encourage cooperation between Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot individuals and organizations to reduce tensions and promote a climate that will foster reconciliation and a durable peace settlement.*

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### *Action for Cooperation and Trust*

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A two-person team has arrived on island to conduct a mid-term evaluation of ACT. They will meet with local ACT partners, official counterparts, opinion leaders and members of the international community. The purpose of the evaluation is to review lessons learned from the first three years of ACT and assess the rationale for second three years with respect to ACT's potential to support the peace process.

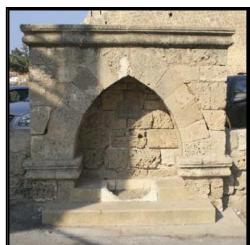
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### *Supporting Activities that Value the Environment*

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SAVE organized the first in its new series of hand-on conservation training courses. Open to any student or professional interested in the latest conservation theories and

techniques, the courses are field-based so that, as a result of the sessions, several of Famagusta's historic fountains and monuments will have been cleaned, repaired and preserved. SAVE's activities to promote water-wise landscaping and to decrease the use of plastic bags continue to receive attention and press play. An active NGO featured SAVE staff as speakers at their bimonthly meeting, using their presentation to devise ways of improving local practices through citizen action. Planning continues for the upcoming Water Summit and water quality training program.

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### *Economic Development and Growth for Enterprises*

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EDGE is finalizing arrangements for the Business Association Executive Exchange program that will take four business association representatives to the US Chamber of Commerce Institute for Organizations Management and pair them with mentor organizations in the US. The Competitiveness Team continues its work on the comparative investment incentives benchmarking report requested by TC partners, on the executive opinion survey that will follow up on the 1/09 **Competitiveness Report** and on developing a "competitiveness barometer" to be used by the local press in evaluating reform progress. In addition to providing ongoing technical assistance, the Agri-business Team published the 7<sup>th</sup> edition of the AgriNews newsletter the week of April 13; hard copies available from [info@edge-bearingpoint.com](mailto:info@edge-bearingpoint.com).



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### *Capacity Development and Training*

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On April 22, USAID staff visited the newly refurbished offices of CDP and was briefed on the first six planned interventions. Plans are underway for an inaugural "Partners Reception" in early May.

*In addition to providing briefings on USAID programs to CODELs Carnahan and Berman, USAID Cyprus served as the control office for a Staff Delegation comprised of three senior staffers from the offices of Senators Menendez, DeMint, and Shaheen—all members of the Committee on Foreign Relations. On island to better understand Cyprus and the latest political developments, the StaffDel toured the UN-patrolled Green Line, visited several USAID project sites, met with civil society leaders from both sides, was briefed by the US Country Team and met with the Special Representative of the UN Secretary General for Cyprus, the Deputy Foreign Minister, the Head of the President's Diplomatic Office, the two sides' top negotiators, and the Turkish Cypriot leader.*



## News from Nicosia

### April 15

U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton met TC leader Mehmet Ali Talat

### April 19

TC "general elections" result in National Unity Party winning 44% of the vote (26 of 50 "parliamentary seats")

### April 20

U.S. Secretary of State met Foreign Minister of the Republic of Cyprus Spyros Kyprianou

## OUR PROJECTS

- The **Action for Cooperation and Trust (ACT)** program mainstreams the concepts of conflict resolution in over 120 projects that encourage Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots to work on issues of common concern and solve problems together. Projects are currently underway in the areas of youth, education and tolerance, civil society strengthening, sustainable development and cultural heritage preservation. ACT is funded through a cooperative agreement between USAID and the UN Development Program (UNDP).
- The **Cyprus Partnership for Economic Growth (CyPEG)** includes activities that support economic growth in the Turkish Cypriot community to decrease the disparities between the communities and promote reconciliation. CyPEG is implemented by U.S. contractors under different USAID contract mechanisms.
  - The objective of the **Economic Development and Growth for Enterprises (EDGE)** project is to strengthen the domestic and international competitiveness of Turkish-Cypriot small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and help restructure the financial sector so that SMEs can thrive.
  - The **Resource Efficiency Achievement Program (REAP)** promotes more efficient use of water and energy by conducting audits and upgrades of representative business establishments and households. REAP also provides technical assistance to Turkish Cypriot energy experts.
  - The **Supporting Activities that Value the Environment (SAVE)** project focuses on improving (1) the competitiveness, financial status, and quality of basic services and infrastructure to more easily meet international and EU standards and (2) Turkish Cypriot capacity to manage natural and cultural resources for economic growth.
  - The **Capacity Development and Training Project (CDP)** complements other USG-funded programs in Cyprus by providing capacity development and training in critical areas.